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DESCRIPTORS *Animals; *Annotated Bibliographies; Archaeology; Biological Sciences; Book Reviews; *Books; *Childrens Literature; Conservation (Environment); Earth Science; Elementary Education; Environment; Instructional Materials; Mathematics; Medicine; Physics; *Reading Materials; Science Education; *Science Instruction; Science Materials; Space Sciences; Technology

IDENTIFIERS *Health Sciences

ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography contains selected children's science trade books published in 1990. The books are aimed primarily at preschool to eighth grade and evaluated by a special book review subcommittee appointed by the National Science Teachers Association and the Children's Book Council. Selections are based on three criteria: accuracy, readability, and pleasing format. Each annotation includes grade levels for each book, International Standard Book Numbers, book prices accurate as of January 1991, and availability of paperback editions. The bibliography contains a total of 90 entries. The books are presented in eight categories: (1) "Animals" (26 entries); (2) "Archeology and Paleontology" (7 entries); (3) "Space Science and Astronomy" (4 entries); (4) "Earth Science and Life Science" (18 entries); (5) "Environment and Conservation" (17 entries); (6) "Medical and Health Sciences" (8 entries); (7) "Physics, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics" (5 entries); and (8) "Observation" (5 entries). (MDH)

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Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children in 1990

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ANIMALS

AMAZING POISONOUS ANIMALS. Alexandra Parsons. Illustrated with color photographs by Jerry Young. Knopf. (Grades 1-5) 32pp. ISBN 0-679-90699-1. $9.99. Paper ed., Knopf. ISBN 0-679-80699-7. Stunning photographs and small drawings accompanied by snippets of accurate text introduce 10 poisonous creatures to young readers and browsers in a colorful, concise, and intriguing format. Index. Also recommended are seven additional titles in the Eyewitness Juniors series: **AMAZING BIRDS.** Alexandra Parsons. ISBN 0-679-90223-6. Paper ed., ISBN 0-679-80223-1; **AMAZING CATS.** Alexandra Parsons. ISBN 0- 679-90690-8. Paper ed., ISBN 0-679-80690-3; **AMAZING FROGS AND TOADS.** Barry Clarke. ISBN 0-679-90688-6. Paper ed., ISBN 0-679-80688-1; **AMAZING LIZARDS.** Trevor Smith. ISBN 0-679-80819-1. Paper ed., ISBN 0-679-90819-6; **AMAZING MAMMALS.** Alexandra Parsons. ISBN 0-679-90224-4. Paper ed., ISBN 0-679-80224-X; **AMAZING SNAKES.** Alexandra Parsons. ISBN 0-679-90225-2. Paper ed., ISBN 0-679-80225-8; and **AMAZING SPIDERS.** Alexandra Parsons. ISBN 0-679-90226-0. Paper ed., ISBN 0-679-80226-6. PM

ANIMAL CAMOUFLAGE: A CLOSER LOOK. Joyce Powzyk. Illustrated in color by the author. Bradbury. (Grades 3-8) 40pp. ISBN 0-02-774980-0. $15.95. Concealing coloration, disruptive coloration, disguise, mimicry, and masking are methods of animal camouflage exemplified in 13 double-page-spread case studies. Additional information about featured animals and further examples of animals that hide

Illustration by Lois Ehlert from Feathers for Lunch. *© 1990. Used with permission of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Children's Books.*

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their presence are included. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. JED

ANIMAL FAMILIES OF THE WILD. Edited by William F. Russell. Illustrated in color and black-and-white by John Butler. Crown. (Grades 3 and up) 96pp. ISBN 0-517-57359-8. $13.99. *Penguin Colony*, *Wolf Pup*, *Eagle Family*, *Beaver Lodge*, and *Caribou Herd* comprise a read-aloud collection of animal literature by, respectively, Gerald Durrell, Farley Mowat, Dan Mannix, James A. Michener, and Roger Caras. Each excerpt captures an animal family in its natural habitat. Index. JRC

ANIMALS OF THE NIGHT. Merry Banks. Illustrated in color by Ronald Himler. Scribner. (Grades preK-1) 32pp. ISBN 0-684-19093-1. $13.95. Warm watercolor illustration and rich language evoke the quiet nighttime life of familiar animals. Fireflies, crickets, bullfrogs, owls, raccoons, armadillos, coyotes, skunks, opossums, and a porcupine appear as children sleep. JM

BACKYARD HUNTER: THE PRAYING MANTIS. Bianca Lavies. Illustrated with color photographs by the author. Dutton. (Grades 2-5) 32pp. ISBN 0-525-44547-1. $13.95. Outstanding photographs document a thorough discussion of the behavior, life cycle, and development of an impressive insect that eats other insects alive. Insect observers will find the account stimulating and informative. JRC

BATS. Sharon Sigmond Shebar and Susan E. Shebar. Illustrated with color photographs. Watts. (Grades 5-7) 64pp. ISBN 0-531-10863-5. $11.90. A well written account of a much maligned animal dispels widely held myths about a mammal that antedated human appearance on Earth by millions of years. Bat species, use of echolocation, migration, hibernation, reproduction, and place in the ecosystem are included. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. LG

BIRD WATCH: A BOOK OF POETRY. Jane Yolen. Illustrated in color by Ted Lewin. Philomel. (Grades 3-6) 40pp. ISBN 0-399-21612-X. $15.95. Seventeen poems that describe a variety of birds highlight typical behaviors of different species. An index of illustrations characterizes 14 birds depicted in brilliant, full-page paintings. JRC

DOLPHIN ADVENTURE: A TRUE STORY. Wayne Grover. Illustrated in black-and-white by Jim Fowler. Greenwillow. (Grades 3-4) 48pp. ISBN 0-688-09442-2. $11.95. In a dramatic encounter, three wild dolphins approach a lone diver for help in disentangling a young dolphin's dorsal fin from a fishing line. A brief text incorporates information about deep-sea diving and dolphin behavior. PM

ELEPHANTS ON THE BEACH. Colleen Stanley Bare. Illustrated with color photographs by the author. Cobblehill. (Grades 2-4) 32pp. ISBN 0-525-65018-0. $12.95. Elephants on the beach are elephant seals from Antarctica and the Pacific coast. The large animal of the sea with the unusual looking proboscis is shown in its daily routine and compared to other pinnipeds. Index. AL

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The books that appear in this annotated bibliography were selected as outstanding children's science trade books published in 1990. They are aimed primarily at prekindergarten to eighth grade and were evaluated by a special book review subcommittee (see below) appointed by NSTA in cooperation with the Children's Book Council (CBC).

Selection is generally based on three criteria: the book is accurate, it is readable, and its format and illustrations are pleasing. Those books that meet the basic criteria are discussed extensively by subcommittee members to determine their appropriateness for this annual selection of outstanding titles. Information in a book selected for this list is consistent with current scientific knowledge. In areas where scientists differ, a book should present different points of view, and information should not be distorted by personal biases or values. Facts and theories must be clearly distinguished, generalizations supported by facts, and significant facts not omitted. If experiments are a feature of the book, the committee considers whether they lead to an understanding of basic principles. Experiments must be appropriate for the readers' age group and be both feasible and safe. The committee has a bias against books that are racist, sexist, or extol violence.

Each annotation is initialed by the person who wrote it. Although the books are read by many committee members, annotations do not necessarily reflect the judgment of all committee members. The appropriate grade level of each book is given in parentheses. International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) are included. If a publisher has both a library and trade edition, the ISBN for the library edition is included. Prices are accurate as of January 1991, but are subject to change. Information on paperback editions is given when known. The symbol "F" following a paperback edition indicates it is forthcoming. Other titles may appear in paperback editions in the future. Some titles on this list are appropriate for more than one category, and they have been placed where their usefulness in science education appears greatest.

The Book Review Committee is appointed by NSTA in cooperation with The Children's Book Council, Inc., a nonprofit association that encourages the reading and enjoyment of children's books and sponsors National Children's Book Week. The committee coordinator is Jeanette Brod, CBC Vice-President. CBC cooperates on reading development projects with several national associations, including NSTA. Current members of the Book Review Committee are

LAZER GOLDBERG, chair, former professor of mathematics and science education for the elementary school, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York
STEPHEN H. BAUMAN, elementary science education consultant, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
JAMES REED CAMPBELL, associate professor, instructional leadership, St. John's University, Jamaica, New York
JOANN E. DeMARIA, elementary teacher, Fairfax County (Virginia) Public Schools
JOAN CRESSLER KARASICK, library media specialist, Eastern Middle School, Greenwich, Connecticut
LESTER L. LAMINACK, associate professor of elementary education and reading, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina
ALAN LIPMAN, principal, New City Elementary School, Clarkstown (New York) Central School District
PATRICIA MANNING, children's librarian, Eastchester (New York) Public Library
JEANNE MILLMAN, director, early childhood education, Newburgh (New York) Enlarged City School District

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FEATHERS FOR LUNCH. Lois Ehlert. Illustrated in color by the author. HBJ. (Grades preK-1) 32pp. ISBN 0-15-230550-5. $13.95. A belled cat jingles through a spring garden, stalking life-sized birds that leave feathers behind. A brief, rhyming text and vivid illustrations introduce 12 common species to the young child. Bird calls and plant labels are included. Final pages give size, food, home, and area of "the lunch that got away." PM

GIRAFFES, THE SENTINELS OF THE SAVANNAS. Helen Roney Sattler. Illustrated in sepia tones by Christopher Santoro. Lothrop. (Grades 4-8) 80pp. ISBN 0-688-08284-X. $14.95. A comprehensive examination of Giraffidae, from fossil remains to the benign giants of today, in an elegant format enhanced by rich sepia illustrations and cream-colored paper. Includes a glossary, geological timeline, and scientific classifications. Bibliography. Index. PM

THE GREAT BUTTERFLY HUNT: THE MYSTERY OF THE MIGRATING MONARCHS. Ethan Herberman. Illustrated with color photographs, maps, and diagrams. Simon and Schuster. (Grades 5-8) 48pp. ISBN 0-671-69427-8. $14.95. Paper ed., Simon and Schuster. ISBN 0-671-69428-6. A handsome account of monarch butterfly migration and how children and other non-scientist volunteers make significant contributions to scientific discovery. Index. Also recommended are three additional NOVA titles, created in association with the producers of the popular public television series: **AIRBORNE: THE SEARCH FOR THE SECRET OF FLIGHT.** Richard Maurer. ISBN 0-671-69422-7; Paper ed., ISBN 0-671-69423-5; **GARBAGE: WHERE IT COMES FROM, WHERE IT GOES.** Evan Hadingham and Jane Hadingham. ISBN 0-671-69424-3. Paper ed., ISBN 0-671-69426-X; and **RADICAL ROBOTS: CAN YOU BE REPLACED?** George Harrar. ISBN 0-671-69420-0. Paper ed., ISBN 0-671-69421-9. LG

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER: THE LOON. Barbara Juster Esbensen. Illustrated in color by Mary Barrett Brown. Little, Brown. (Grades 1-4) 32pp. ISBN 0-316-24954-8. $14.95. An informative narrative and handsome, detailed illustrations portray the beguiling loon, one of the most primitive bird species in the United States, in its warm-weather habitat. JM

HOW SMART ARE ANIMALS? Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. HBJ. (Grades 6 and up) 208pp. ISBN 0-15-236770-5. $17.95. An excellent, broad-based look at animal intelligence examines the differences between learning and instinct; how a variety of animal brains function; experimentation with birds, wolves, dogs, monkeys, and apes; and language research conducted with primates and sea mammals. Readers will question the relationship between human intelligence and that of other species Glossary. Bibliography. Index. SHB

INSECT. Laurence Mound. Illustrated with color photographs by Colin Keates, Neil Fletcher, and Frank Greenaway. Knopf. (Grades 5 and up) 64pp. ISBN 0-679-90441-7. $14.99. Insect anatomy, particular insect species, and how insects survive and relate to other living things in an appealing, thorough presentation suitable for browsing or close study. Also recommended are two additional Eyewitness Books: **FISH.** Steve Parker. ISBN 0-679-90439-5; and **FOSSIL.** Paul D. Taylor. ISBN 0-679-90440-9. JCK

INSECT METAMORPHOSIS: FROM EGG TO ADULT. Ron Goor and Nancy Goor. Illustrated with color photographs by the authors. Atheneum. (Grades 3-6) 32pp. ISBN 0-689-31445-0. $14.95. Outstanding, closeup photography and intriguing text carefully illustrate each stage of insect development. Numerous examples of interesting species help readers become skillful observers of insects in their natural habitats. Index. JRC

A KETTLE OF HAWKS AND OTHER WILDLIFE GROUPS. Jim Arnosky. Illustrated in color by the author. Lothrop. (Grades K-4) 32pp. ISBN 0-688-09280-2. $13.88. Informative, poetic text and elegant watercolor illustrations introduce revealing and unusual names of groups of hawks, bees, ants, fish, tadpoles, and geese. Includes a list of additional animal groups. JM

NORTH COUNTRY NIGHT. Daniel San Souci. Illustrated in color by the author. Doubleday. (Grades 2-4) 32pp. ISBN 0-385-41320-3. $15.99. One night in a moonlit winter wood reveals, with striking illustrations, the activities of nocturnal animals and several relationships between predator and prey. LLL

AN OWL IN THE HOUSE: A NATURALIST'S DIARY. Bernd Heinrich; adapted by Alice Calaprice. Illustrated with black-and-white drawings and photographs by the author. Joy Street. (Grades 4-8) 128pp. ISBN 0-316-35456-2. $14.95. A naturalist goes against his better judgment and adopts an abandoned owlet in an engrossing tale written from journal entries. Instructive text and excellent illustration detail the growth, development, and behavior of a common bird of prey, with special emphasis on problems inherent in reintroducing animals to the wild. Includes instructions on keeping a nature diary and what to do if you find a baby bird. SHB

SEALS, SEA LIONS, AND WALRUSES. Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. Illustrated with black-and-white photographs. Holiday House. (Grades 4-8) 96pp. ISBN 0-8234-0834-5. $14.95. A compe-

tent, well-organized look at the lives of three mammals called pinnipeds because of their unique, finlike feet. Clear photographs enrich informative, accurate text. Includes a list of scientific names. Bibliography. Index. PM

THE SECRETIVE TIMBER RATTLESNAKE. Bianca Lavies. Illustrated with color photographs by the author. Dutton. (Grades 3-6) 32pp. ISBN 0-525-44572-2. $13.95. An informative, handsome photo-essay documents the behaviors of the timber rattlesnake and demonstrates how the impressive reptile contributes to the balance of nature. JRC

SPIDERS. Alice L. Hopf. Illustrated with color photographs by Ann Moreton. Cobblehill. (Grades 4-7) 64pp. ISBN 0-525-65017-2. $13.95. Informative text and brilliant photographs describe shared characteristics and differences among a variety of interesting species of spiders found around the world. Includes discussion of webs, mating, motherhood, and spider ingenuity. Index. JRC

SPRING FLEECE: A DAY OF SHEEPSHEARING. Catherine Paladino. Illustrated with black-and-white photographs by the author. Joy Street. (Grades 2-4) 48pp. ISBN 0-316-68890-8. $14.95. A handsome photo-essay describes the work of sheepshearers as they travel to two New England farms. A comprehensive look at an ancient craft told with warmth and drama. JM

TIGER TREK. Ted Lewin. Illustrated in color by the author. Macmillan. (Grades 2-5) 32pp. ISBN 0-02-757381-8. $14.95. A simple story

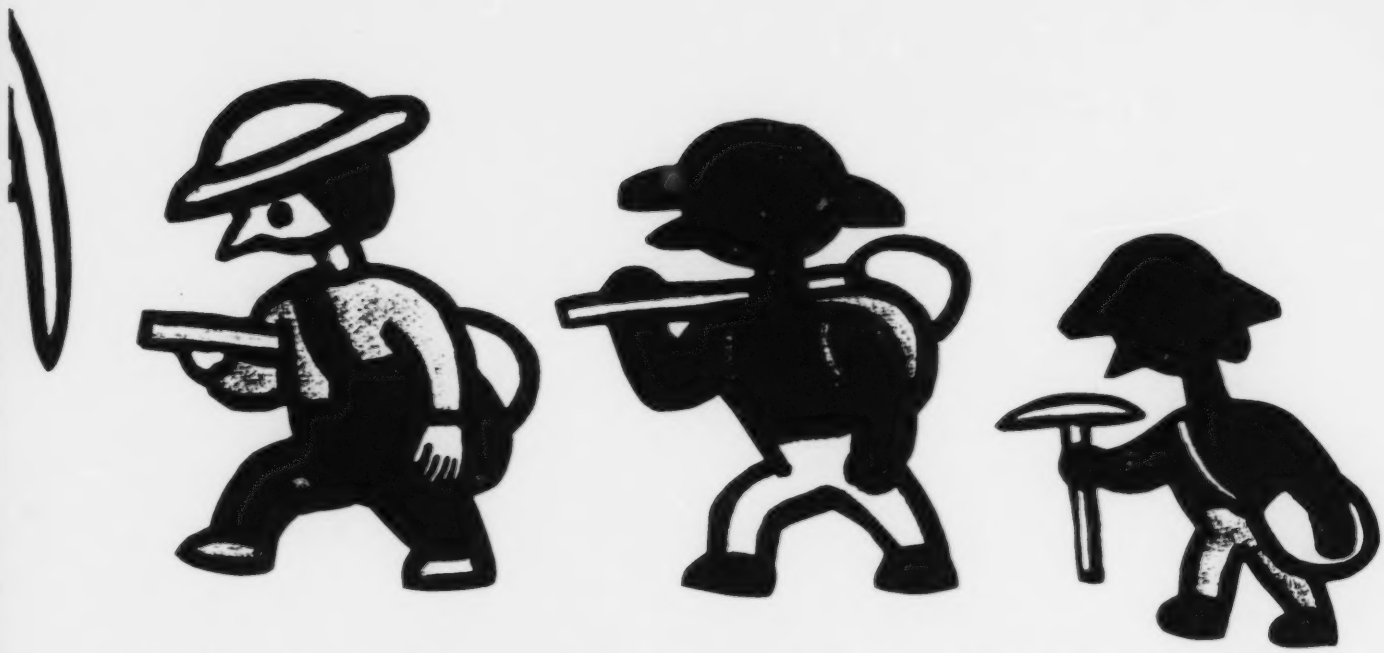

Illustration by Byron Barton from Bones, Bones, Dinosaur Bones. *© 1990. Used with permission of HarperCollins Children's Books.*

and beautiful watercolors describe a tiger as she hunts to feed herself and her cubs. Includes a visit to wildlife preserves in India, where a variety of indigenous animal and plant life can be seen. AL

THE VANISHING MANATEE. Margaret Goff Clark. Illustrated in color and black-and-white photographs. Cobblehill. (Grades 4-8) 64pp. ISBN 0-525-65024-5. $13.95. Facts, anecdotes, and details describe the physical characteristics and behaviors of the friendly and curious manatee, Florida's largest mammal. Includes a discussion of research efforts to ensure manatee survival in their aquatic environment and sources for more information. A charming, instructive study. Index. SHB

WOLVES. R.D. Lawrence. Illustrated with color photographs. Sierra Club/Little, Brown. (Grades 3-6) 64pp. ISBN 0-316-51676-7. $14.95. A sympathetic, up-to-date treatment of wolves with special emphasis on the social nature of wild wolves. Includes a wealth of information about the growth and development of pups from a variety of species. Also recommended is a companion title from the Sierra Club Wildlife Library: **EAGLES.** Aubrey Lang. ISBN 0-316-51387-3. JRC

ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY

BONES, BONES, DINOSAUR BONES. Byron Barton. Illustrated in color by the author. HarperCollins. (Grades K-2) 32pp. ISBN 0-690-04827-0. $12.89. From the field search for dinosaur bones to reconstructed skeletons for museum display, paleontology as process is revealed in simple text, bold print, and flat illustrations with heavy, black outlines. Includes labeled illustrations of eight dinosaurs. LLL

DINOSAUR DIG. Kathryn Lasky. Illustrated with color photographs by Christopher G. Knight. Morrow. (Grades 4-6) 64pp. ISBN 0-688-08575-X. $13.88. An informative text combines geological history, field methodology, and human emotions in a colorful photo-essay that features families participating in an expedition to discover dinosaur fossils. Young and old sift dirt and risk blisters unearthing finds under a paleontologist's guidance in the Montana Badlands. PM

DINOSAURS DOWN UNDER: AND OTHER FOSSILS FROM AUSTRALIA. Caroline Arnold. Illustrated with color photographs by Richard Hewett. Clarion. (Grades 3-7) 48pp. ISBN 0-89919-814-7. $14.95. Describes how a museum mounts an exhibit and gives specifics about fossils unique to Australia, with focus on the exhibit "Kadimakara: Fossils of the Australian Dreamtime," Los Angeles, 1988. Excellent photographs give readers a you-are-there feeling for a museum. Maps illustrate plate tectonics. Index. JCK

FOSSILS TELL OF LONG AGO. Aliki. Illustrated in color by the author. HarperCollins. (Grades K-3) 32pp. ISBN 0-690-04844-0. $13.89. Paper ed., Harper Trophy. ISBN 0-06-445093-7. Information about how fossils are formed and discovered is presented in simple text and an appealing variety of colorful illustrations. Includes directions for creating a fossil. JM

THE LOST WRECK OF THE ISIS. Robert D. Ballard. Illustrated in color by Wesley Lowe and Ken Marschall and with photographs, maps, and diagrams. Scholastic. (Grades 4-7) 64pp. ISBN 0-590-43852-2. $15.95. The JASON Project's Mediterranean expedition to study the remains of an ancient Roman shipwreck is recounted in an entertaining, skillful blend of scientific exploration, archaeology, and history. Includes flashbacks to the fourth century A.D. and a full-color wall poster. Glossary. AL

THE NEW ILLUSTRATED DINOSAUR DICTIONARY. Helen Roney Sattler. Illustrated in black-and-white and color by Joyce Powzyk. Lothrop. (Grades 4 and up) 364pp. ISBN 0-688-08462-1. $24.95. Paper ed., Lothrop. ISBN 0-688-10043-0. An updated, newly illustrated edition of an authoritative compendium of over 350 dinosaurs and other prehistoric reptiles and amphibians. Includes a directory by location of dinosaur discoveries, a full-color pictorial of dinosaurs, and maps of continents. PM

TRACES OF LIFE: THE ORIGINS OF HUMANKIND. Kathryn Lasky. Illustrated in black-and-white by Whitney Powell and with prints. Morrow. (Grades 5-8) 144pp. ISBN 0-688-07237-2. $16.95. The history of hominid

research and the work of scientists involved are accurately and pleasantly described in an easy-to-read chronology. A comprehensible guide to how various finds and reconstructions explain the evolution of *Homo sapiens*. Index. Bibliography. SHB

SPACE SCIENCE AND ASTRONOMY

THE CHRISTMAS SKY. Franklyn M. Branley. Illustrated in color by Stephen Fieser. HarperCollins. (Grades 3-7). 48pp. ISBN 0-690-04772-X. $14.89. Paper ed., Harper Trophy (F). A beautifully re-illustrated revised edition of how scientists reason about stellar and planetary configurations that might have been seen in the sky at the time of Jesus' birth. The story of Christmas, contemporary politics, and quotations from the Bible serve as background for an attempt to identify the Star of Bethlehem. LG

THE GREAT VOYAGER ADVENTURE: A GUIDED TOUR THROUGH THE SOLAR SYSTEM. Alan Harris and Paul Weissman. Illustrated with black-and-white and color photographs and diagrams. Messner. (Grades 4-8) 80pp. ISBN 0-671-72538-6. $14.98. Recent exploration of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, the four giant planets in Earth's outer solar system, was made possible by technological advancement. Two insiders discuss the role of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in assembling and guiding *Voyagers 1* and *2* and future missions. Glossary. Index. AL

HOW DID WE FIND OUT ABOUT NEPTUNE? Isaac Asimov. Illustrated in black-and-white by Erika Kors. Walker. (Grades 4-8) 64pp. ISBN 0-8027-6982-9. $13.85. Based on observations made of the motion of Uranus, several astronomers felt that another body, farther out in the solar system, must exist. An excellent resource for learning about the solar system and discovering how observation and prediction can lead to new scientific knowledge. Index. AL

SMALL WORLDS: EXPLORING THE 60 MOONS OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM. Joseph W. Kelch. Illustrated with color and black-and-white photographs. Messner. (Grades 6-8) 160pp. ISBN 0-671-70013-8. $16.98. Examines the origin, characteristics, and discovery of the 60 moons in our solar system with the help of the latest data from the *Voyager* space probes. Includes a checklist of information on all 60 moons. Index. AL

EARTH SCIENCE AND LIFE SCIENCE

AN APPLE A DAY: FROM ORCHARD TO YOU. Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. Illustrated with color photographs by William Muñoz. Cobblehill. (Grades 4-6) 64pp. ISBN 0-525-65020-2. $13.95. A comprehensive account of the six varieties of apples that comprise over 80 percent of the U.S. crop. Includes importation by Europeans, propagation, shaping, blossoms, the role of bees, combatting pests, harvesting, storing, sorting, packing, and selling. Index. LG

THE CLOVER AND THE BEE: A BOOK OF POLLINATION. Anne Ophelia Dowden. Illustrated in color and black-and-white by the author. HarperCollins. (Grades 4-8) 96pp. ISBN 0-690-04679-0. $17.89. The pollination partnership between plants and animals is examined for the budding horticulturist or the inquisitive naturalist. Insects, birds, mammals, wind and water as pollinators, and plant structure are discussed. Indexes. SHB

COWS IN THE PARLOR: A VISIT TO A DAIRY FARM. Cynthia McFarland. Illustrated with color photographs by the author. Atheneum. (Grades 1-3) 32pp. ISBN 0-689-31584-8. $13.95. Cows and dairy farmers never have a day off. Milking, feeding, calving, grazing, the machines in the milking parlor, and the farm's seasonal work are included in a delightful photo-essay about a day on a dairy farm. JCK

Illustration by Barbara Bash from Urban Roosts: Where Birds Nest in the City, *©1990. Used with permission of Little, Brown & Company.*

DUMB CANE AND DAFFODILS: POISONOUS PLANTS IN THE HOUSE AND GARDEN. Carol Lerner. Illustrated in color and black-and-white by the author. Morrow. (Grades 4-8) 32pp. ISBN 0-688-08796-5. $13.88. An informative text describes more than 30 indoor and garden plants hazardous to humans and pets. Attractive full-color plates and soft pencil drawings aid identification. Bibliography. Index. PM

A FLOWER GROWS. Ken Robbins. Illustrated with hand-colored black-and-white photographs by the author. Dial. (Grades 2-6) 32pp. ISBN 0-8037-0765-7. $12.89. The life cycle of an amaryllis plant, from its beginning as an unattractive bulb to its gorgeous blossoming and subsequent rest, is beautifully illustrated and described in interesting text. Includes helpful hints on growing an amaryllis indoors. AL

FLOWERS FOR EVERYONE. Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. Illustrated with color photographs by William Muñoz. Cobblehill. (Grades 5-8) 64pp. ISBN 0-525-65025-3. $13.95. Readers deepen their appreciation of flowers through an understanding of flower growth from seed, bulb, and tuber; pollination; and production for market. Felicitous writing and generous photographs depict specific flowers. Glossary. Index. LG

THE HIDDEN LIFE OF THE DESERT. Thomas Wiewandt. Illustrated with color photographs by the author. Crown. (Grades 2-6) 40pp. ISBN 0-517-57356-3. $13.99. Unusual desert plants and animals are described in straightforward text and beautiful illustrations that diminish the stereotypical view of a barren desert environment. A spectacular, complex view of a desert ecosystem in the American Southwest. JED

HIDDEN STORIES IN PLANTS: UNUSUAL AND EASY-TO-TELL STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD TOGETHER WITH

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This list is a project of the NSTA-Children's Book Council (CBC) Joint Committee. Single copies are available for a stamped (3 oz.), self-addressed, 6 x 9 envelope from CBC (568 Broadway, New York, NY 10012). 5-20 copies, 90c each; over 20 copies, 75c each. Payment must accompany orders.

Other lists associated with CBC are:

"Notable 1990 Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies," reprinted from the April/May 1991 issue of Social Education and a project of the National Council for the Social Studies-Children's Book Council Joint Committee. Single copies are available free for a stamped (3 oz.), self-addressed, 6 x 9 envelope from CBC (568 Broadway, New York, NY 10012). 5-20 copies, $1.25 each; over 20 copies, $1.00 each. Payment must accompany orders.

"Children's Choices," reprinted from a fall issue of The Reading Teacher and a project of the International Reading Association-Children's Book Council Joint Committee. Single copies are available free for a stamped (3 oz.), self-addressed, 6¼ x 9½ envelope from IRA (800 Barksdale Road, P.O. Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714); the reprint includes prices for bulk orders.

CREATIVE THINGS TO DO WHILE TELLING THEM. Anne Pellowski. Illustrated with black-line drawings by Lynn Sweat. Macmillan. (Grades 5 and up) 112pp. ISBN 0-02-770611-7. $14.95. A unique combination of folktales, myths, and legends with matching crafts enhances young people's observation and enjoyment of the botanical world. Simple diagrams accompany directions for crafts. Especially useful for parents, teachers, storytellers, and others who work with children. List of sources appended. PM

MORE THAN JUST A VEGETABLE GARDEN. Dwight Kuhn. Illustrated with color photographs by the author. Silver Press. (Grades 1-3) 40pp. ISBN 0-671-69643-2. $15.98. A beautifully photographed look at the changing world of a vegetable garden and the many creatures that inhabit it is enhanced with clear, informative text. Includes simple instructions for starting a garden. Glossary. Index. JM

NATURE'S GREAT BALANCING ACT: IN OUR OWN BACKYARD. E. Jaediker Norsgaard. Illustrated with color photographs by Campbell Norsgaard. Cobblehill. (Grades 3-6) 64pp. ISBN 0-525-65028-8. $14.95. The interrelationships of plants, animals, insects, and birds are explored in a semi-wild New England backyard. Excellent photographs complement a lively text. Glossary. Index. PM

PLANTS: EXTINCTION OR SURVIVAL? Howard Facklam and Margery Facklam. Illustrated with black-and-white photographs and prints. Enslow. (Grades 6-8) 96pp. ISBN 0-89490-248-2. $16.95. The importance of plants as a source of food, medicine, and other products is integrated with research contributions by male and female scientists in an easy-to-read, informative text. Especially noteworthy is a chapter on medical technology. Bibliography. Index. JEI

TOMATO. Barrie Watts. Illustrated with color photographs and black-and-white drawings. Silver Burdett. (Grades K-3) 24pp. ISBN 0-382-24008-1. $6.95. Paper ed., Silver Burdett (F). Excellent photographs and clear diagrams accompany the simple text that describes the growing cycle of a tomato. Invites examination, observation, and experimentation and includes a picture quiz review. Index. JM

THE TREE. Judy Hindley. Illustrated in color by Alison Wisenfeld. Clarkson Potter. (Grades 1-6) 24pp. ISBN 0-517-57630-9. $13.95. An introduction to 12 trees includes botany background, a poem, folklore, and uses associated with each tree. Hawthorn, ash, sycamore, horsechestnut, willow, fir, beech, birch, plane, elm, apple, and oak trees are described in double-page spreads that feature detailed folk-art illustrations. LLL

24 HOURS IN A FOREST. Barrie Watts. Illustrated with color photographs by the author. Watts. (Grades 4-6) 48pp. ISBN 0-531-14036-9. $11.90. An informative visual study of a forest during a summer day. An array of animals and plants emerge in early morning, daytime, evening, and at night as readers follow the rhythms of forest life. Glossary. Index. JRC

UNDER YOUR FEET. Joanne Ryder. Illustrated in color by Dennis Nolan. Four Winds. (Grades K-3) 32pp. ISBN 0-02-777955-6. $13.95. A unique approach to living things that dwell underground follows a lone boy on nature walks during the changing seasons. Poetic prose changes the way readers think about the ground they walk on. LLL

WINTER. Ron Hirschi. Illustrated with color photographs by Thomas D. Mangelsen. Cobblehill. (Grades preK-3) 32pp. ISBN 0-525-65026-1. $13.95. Readers explore winter scenes in the wilderness as spare, poetic text and crisp, closeup photographs bring groups of animals to life. Also recommended is a companion title by the same team: **SPRING.** ISBN 0-525-65037-7. JRC

WOODPILE. Peter Parnall. Illustrated in color by the author. Macmillan. (Grades K-4) 32pp. ISBN 0-02-770155-7. $14.95. A lyrical portrait of a habitat depicts how a variety of woodland creatures live, hide, store food, and stalk prey in the nooks and crannies in and around a common woodpile. Encourages readers to look beyond the obvious when observing nature. Excellent for read-aloud and discussion. SHB

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

ANTARCTICA. Helen Cowcher. Illustrated in color by the author. Farrar. (Grades K-3) 32pp. ISBN 0-374-30368-1. $13.95. Paper ed., Farrar (F). A simple story of a penguin hatch reflects interaction among species in the cold, far south. Emperor penguins, Weddell seals, Adélie penguins, leopard seals, and skuas are portrayed in lush, full-page illustrations. Important environmental message impugns humankind's intrusive presence. JCK

GLOBAL WARMING. Laurence Pringle. Illustrated with color photographs, maps, and charts. Arcade. (Grades 4-8) 48pp. ISBN 1-55970-012-2. $14.95. An assessment of the greenhouse threat in an appealing format with thorough, up-to-date information on the causes and effects of temperature changes around the world. Includes a discussion of reducing greenhouse gases. Glossary. Index. JCK

THE GREAT KAPOK TREE: A TALE OF THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST. Lynne Cherry. Illustrated in color by the author. Gulliver. (Grades 1-5) 32pp. ISBN 0-15-200520-X. $14.95. A man with an ax sleeps in the Brazilian rain forest and is visited by animals that argue against chopping down a kapok tree. An original tale highlights the survival needs of a variety of animals, the interdependence of living things, and the importance of conservation. JEI

Illustration by Alison Wisenfeld from The Tree. *© 1990. Used with permission of Clarkson N. Potter, a division of Random House, Inc.*

THE GREAT YELLOWSTONE FIRE. Carole Garbuny Vogel and Kathryn Allen Goldner. Illustrated with color photographs. Sierra Club Little, Brown. (Grades 3-6) 32pp. ISBN 0-316-90522-4. $14.95. Readers visit the scene of the spectacular Yellowstone National Park fires of 1988 to witness efforts to extinguish the blazes and save animals, plants, and humans, and to recognize the natural cycle of renewal amid the ashes. JEI

GREENING THE CITY STREETS: THE STORY OF COMMUNITY GARDENS. Barbara A. Huff. Illustrated with color and black-and-white photographs by Peter Ziebel. Clarion. (Grades 3-7) 72pp. ISBN 0-89919-741-8. $15.95. The depiction of successful community gardens organized and maintained by amateurs of all ages demonstrates that urban life need not be colorless. Manhattan's Sixth Street and Avenue B Garden is highlighted. Includes a list of gardening organizations. Bibliography. Index. LG

JOHN MUIR. Eden Force. Illustrated with black-and-white photographs. Silver Burdett. (Grades 5-8) 152pp. ISBN 0-382-09965-6. $7.95. Paper ed., Silver Burdett. ISBN 0-382-09970-2. An inspirational biography of the turn-of-the-

century naturalist and conservationist responsible for the establishment of Yosemite National Park, the founding of the Sierra Club, and the creation of the U.S. National Park Service, describes John Muir's boyhood, explorations, publications, and adult life. Includes a chronology. Bibliography. Index. JED

JUST A DREAM. Chris Van Allsburg. Illustrated in color by the author. Houghton. (Grades 3-6) 48pp. ISBN 0-395-53308-2. $17.95. A boy indifferent to recycling and contemptuous of trees dreams of a depressing future world that results from attitudes like his. When he awakens, his attitudes have changed. A simple story with beautiful and effective illustrations. LG

NEAR THE SEA: A PORTFOLIO OF PAINTINGS. Jim Arnosky. Illustrated in color by the author. Lothrop. (Grades 4-7) 32pp. ISBN 0-688-09327-2. $13.85. Bluefish, gulls, and physical features of a small Maine island are rendered in oil paintings with accompanying, informative text. An artist and naturalist captures the beauty and rhythms of the sea. JED

ONE DAY IN THE TROPICAL RAIN FOREST. Jean Craighead George. Illustrated in black-and-white by Gary Allen. HarperCollins. (Grades 3-6) 64pp. ISBN 0-690-04769-X. $11.89. The final day of a struggle between developers and conservationists over the Tropical Rain Forest of the Macaw as seen by a young Indian boy. A beautifully written story details the complexity, majesty, and interdependence of flora and fauna and teaches about indigenous people and scientists who inhabit a small part of Venezuela's rain forest. Index. Bibliography. SHB

THE PEOPLING OF PLANET EARTH: HUMAN POPULATION GROWTH THROUGH THE AGES. Roy A. Gallant. Illustrated with black-and-white photographs, drawings, charts, and maps. Macmillan. (Grades 6-8) 176pp. ISBN 0-02-735772-4. $15.95. A realistic, informative approach to the consequences of human population growth includes a survey of the origin of life (creation is discussed with a variety of myths and scientific theories), early civilizations, the rise of cities, and migration. Includes an examination of food and energy resources and an assessment of future quality of life. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. JED

RIVERKEEPER. George Ancona. Illustrated with black-and-white photographs by the author. Macmillan. (Grades 3-6) 48pp. ISBN 0-02-700911-4. $13.95. A photo-essay about the environmentalist, hired by the Hudson River Fishermen's Association as caretaker of one of New York's most important waterways, describes his work as a boatman, wildlife monitor, pollution detective, political activist, and public speaker. JCK

SAVING OUR WILDLIFE. Laurence Pringle. Illustrated with black-and-white photographs. Enslow. (Grades 5-8) 64pp. ISBN 0-89490-204-0. $15.95. A broad, measured look at efforts to protect wildlife and preserve habitats in North America emphasizes the relationship between animals and their environment with many examples. Bibliography. Index. PM

SEA OTTER RESCUE: THE AFTERMATH OF AN OIL SPILL. Roland Smith. Illustrated with color photographs by the author. Cobblehill. (Grades 4-7) 64pp. ISBN 0-525-65041-5. $13.95. Details of the cleanup after the 1989 oil spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska, are provided by a research biologist involved in the rescue operation. A well-written text includes information on normal sea otters and the unsensationalized story of efforts to save oil-endangered otters. Glossary. Index. JCK

URBAN ROOSTS: WHERE BIRDS NEST IN THE CITY. Barbara Bash. Illustrated in color by the author. Sierra Club/Little, Brown. (Grades 2-6) 32pp. ISBN 0-316-08306-2. $14.95. Excellent treatment of an unusual subject reveals that human-made places of steel, stone, and concrete are home to a variety of birds. Includes information on sparrows, finches, barn and snowy owls, swallows, swifts, nighthawks, killdeers, pigeons, wrens, crows, starlings, and falcons that have successfully adapted to city life. JED

WINDOWS ON WILDLIFE. Ginny Johnston and Judy Cutchins. Illustrated with color photographs by Judy Cutchins and others. Morrow. (Grades 3-5) 48pp. ISBN 0-688-07873-7. $13.88. From gavials lazing in a jungle river to kelp swaying in a sunlit sea, two bright photo-essays provide an enticing glimpse of six natural habitat exhibits around the country—Zoo Atlanta in Georgia; Sea World's Penguin Encounter in Orlando, Florida; the Bronx Zoo's JungleWorld in New York; the Hippoquarium in the Toledo Zoo in Ohio; the Zoological Park's Forest Aviary in North Carolina; and the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California. Glossary. Index. PM

THE YEAR OF THE PANDA. Miriam Schlein. Illustrated in black-and-white by Kam Mak. HarperCollins. (Grades 3-6) 96pp. ISBN 0-690-04866-1. $12.89. Paper ed., Harper Trophy (F) A Chinese boy accompanies the orphaned panda cub he rescued in a neighboring forest to the Daxiong Mao (giant panda) Rescue Center. A delightful, easy-to-read novel describes government efforts to ensure panda survival in the wild with programs to relocate farmers and study pandas in captivity. SHB

YELLOWSTONE FIRES: FLAMES AND REBIRTH. Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. Illustrated with color photographs by William Munoz and others. Holiday House. (Grades 4-6) 40pp. ISBN 0-8234-0807-8. $14.95. A handsome photo-essay about the 1988 fires in Yellowstone National Park that describes the natural onset of fires, fire management, and a fire's positive and negative effects on plants and animals. Provides a unique look at the cycles of nature. Index. JED

MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

BE SMART ABOUT SEX: FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. Jean Fiedler and Hal Fiedler. Illustrated with black-line drawings by Hal Fiedler. Enslow. (Grades 6 and up) 128pp. ISBN 0-894490-168-0. $17.95. Informative, up-to-date guide covering maturation, birth control, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS in a question-and-answer format. Wide range of targeted readers. Includes a listing of service organization telephone hotlines. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. JCK

THE FACTS ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE. Laurie Beckelman. Illustrated with color photographs. Crestwood House. (Grades 3-6) 48pp. ISBN 0-69686-489-8. $10.05. A simple, effective presentation of facts and misconceptions about the mysterious brain disease that affects a large number of the elderly. Discusses diagnosis, care, and treatment through a first-person narrative detailing the author's experiences with her grandmother. An appropriate starting point for discussion of a difficult family situation. Includes a listing of resource organizations. Glossary. Index. Also recommended are four additional titles in *The Facts About Series*: **THE FACTS ABOUT CRACK AND COCAINE.** Mary Turck. ISBN 0-89686-491-X; **THE FACTS ABOUT DRINKING AND DRIVING.** Andy Hielmeland. ISBN 0-89686-496-0; **THE FACTS**

Illustration by Helen Cowcher from Antarctica. *© 1990. Used with permission of Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.*

ABOUT LEUKEMIA. Judy Monroe. ISBN 0-89686-532-0; and **THE FACTS ABOUT TRANSPLANTS.** Laurie Beckelman. ISBN 0-89686-572-X. SHB

FLORENCE SABIN: MEDICAL RESEARCHER. Janet Kronstadt. Illustrated with black-and-white prints and photographs. Chelsea House. (Grades 5-8) 112pp. ISBN 1-55546-676-1. $17.95. An inspiring biography of the first woman professor at Johns Hopkins University (1903), the first woman president of the American Society of Anatomists (1924), and the first woman elected to the National Academy of Sciences (1925) that details Florence Sabin's research as well as her dedication to public health. Includes a list of publications and a personal chronology. Bibliography. Index. LG

MEDICAL DILEMMAS. Margaret O. Hyde and Elizabeth H. Forsyth. Putnam. (Grades 7-8) 112pp. ISBN 0-399-21902-1. $14.95. Up-to-date information on animal research, gene therapy, babies, transplants, AIDS, and the right-to-die issue. Includes case studies of ethical and moral dilemmas created by new technology and poses the question, "What would you decide?" Bibliography. Index. JCK

MY FEET. Aliki. Illustrated in color by the author. HarperCollins. (Grades preK-1) 32pp. ISBN 0-690-04815-7. $13.89. Paper ed., Harper Trophy (F). An extensive discussion of feet, through simple text and playful illustration, demonstrates their parts, relative sizes, what they do, and what they wear in different seasons. Includes a handicapped child whose crutches supplement feet. Also recommended is a companion title by the same author/illustrator: **MY HANDS.** ISBN 0-690-04880-7. Paper ed., Harper Trophy (F). JCK

OVERCOMING ACNE: THE HOW AND WHY OF HEALTHY SKIN CARE. Alvin Silverstein, Virginia Silverstein, and Robert Silverstein. Illustrated with black-and-white diagrams by Frank Schwartz. Morrow. (Grades 6-8) 112pp. ISBN 0-688-08344-7. $12.95. The life of a pimple, the causes of acne, and the positive and negative consequences of treatment are explored in a well researched, lucid text on a topic of interest to all adolescents. Glossary. Index. SHB

PHYSICS, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS

BALLOONS: BUILDING AND EXPERIMENTING WITH INFLATABLE TOYS. Bernie Zubrowski. Illustrated with black-line drawings by Roy Doty. Morrow. (Grades 4-6) 80pp. ISBN 0-688-08325-0. $12.88. Paper ed., Morrow. ISBN 0-688-08324-2. A Boston Children's Museum activity book that introduces physical properties of gases and scientific concepts of force and pressure with balloons and other inflatable toys. Each activity includes a scientific explanation, a list of needed materials, simple instructions with helpful illustrations, and ideas for further investigations. AL

HOW DID WE FIND OUT ABOUT LASERS? Isaac Asimov. Illustrated in black-and-white by Erika Kors. Walker. (Grades 5-8) 64pp. ISBN 0-8027-6936-5. $13.85. A clear explanation of light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation (laser) includes a brief history of scientific investigation of electromagnetic radiation, the invention of masers and lasers, and current uses. Index. AL

MATHEMATICS. Irving Adler. Illustrated in color by Ron Miller. Doubleday. (Grades 4-8) 48pp. ISBN 0-385-26143-8. $12.99. A deceptively simple format invites understanding of natural numbers, even and odd, numeration (including the binary system), negative integers, the line, directions and angles, number and shape, prime numbers, square roots, Fibonacci numbers and their applications, polygons, the golden ratio, and the growth of mathematics. Includes applications on the calculator and a brief introduction to BASIC with applications. Index. LG

ROBOTS: YOUR HIGH-TECH WORLD. Gloria Skurzynski. Illustrated with color photographs. Bradbury. (Grades 5-8) 64pp. ISBN 0-02-782917-0. $15.95. The evolution of robots and practical and future implications of robotics in medicine, science, industry, and entertainment are featured in a handsome photo-essay. Includes a timeline of the history of robots. Index. JEI

THE TIME AND SPACE OF UNCLE ALBERT. Russell Stannard. Holt. (Grades 6-8) 128pp. ISBN 0-8050-1309-1. $14.95. Logical inconsistencies between Einstein's special theory of relativity and our everyday experience of time and space are illuminated when Gedanken is beamed into space in a thought bubble. Though not always successful as a novel, Gedanken's school science project and Uncle Albert's research provide an excellent introduction to Einstein's theory. Includes a brief discussion of Einstein's contributions to science. Bibliography. LG

OBSERVATION

COLOR FARM. Lois Ehlert. Illustrated in color by the author. HarperCollins. (Grades preK-1) 40pp. ISBN 0-397-32441-3. $12.89. A delightful die-cut exploration of how shapes and colors can be layered and overlapped to create the faces of farm animals. Includes geometric pictures of a rooster, a chicken, a goose, a duck, a cat, a dog, a sheep, a pig, and a cow. LLL

EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE. Conceived and photographed in color by Tana Hoban. Greenwillow. (Grades K-2) 32pp. ISBN 0-688-08862-7. $12.88. A wordless book of beautiful, outdoor photographs presents intriguing pairs of opposites in double-page spreads. Encourages creative thinking, interesting discussion, and open-ended observation. AL

MY FIRST LOOK AT SIZES. Illustrated with color photographs by Stephen Oliver. Random House. (Grades preK-6) 16pp. ISBN 0-679-80532-X. $6.95. Crisp, bold, well-labeled photographs present size progressions and size comparisons with objects readily found in a child's environment. Also recommended are two companion titles by the same photographer: **MY FIRST LOOK AT OPPOSITES.** ISBN 0-679-80602-2; and **MY FIRST LOOK AT TOUCH.** ISBN 0-679-80623-7. LLL

ONE SUN: A BOOK OF TERSE VERSE. Bruce McMillan. Illustrated with color photographs by the author. Holiday House. (Grades K-2) 32pp. ISBN 0-8234-0810-8. $14.95. Rhymed pairs of monosyllabic words accompany full-page photographs of beach scenes in a playful look at an outdoor environment. LLL

SHADOWS AND REFLECTIONS. Conceived and illustrated by Tana Hoban. Greenwillow. (Grades preK-3) 32pp. ISBN 0-688-07090-6. $12.88. A collection of striking outdoor photographs, depicting a variety of shadows and reflections, creates awareness of light sources and images in familiar surroundings. LLL